



Using the Attorney General's Polling Place Checklist to Run a Better Election

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Objectives

- ▶ Review categories on the polling place checklist.
- ▶ Identify common questions or concerns.
- ▶ Highlight helpful statutes.
- ▶ Refer to useful areas of the Election Procedure Manual 2018-2019.

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Exterior

- ▶ Traffic and Parking
 - ▶ Predict, Prepare, Plan
- ▶ Accessibility
- ▶ Campaign Signs
- ▶ No Electioneering Zone
 - ▶ RSA 659:43
 - ▶ Election Procedure Manual Pg. 185
 - ▶ Minnesota Majority v. Manky, 708 F.3d 1051 (8th Cir. 2013)

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Signs


- ▶ 8 signs that must be posted inside the polling location:
 1. Purity of Elections Statutes
 2. Prohibited Acts While Voting
 3. Election Day Registration
 4. What Constitutes Voter Fraud and Penalties
 5. "New Hampshire Voter ID Law"
 6. "How are votes challenged?"
 7. Voters Needing Assistance to Mark a Ballot
 8. Voting Rights



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Voting Booths

- ▶ "White tent" accessible booth.
- ▶ Must have at a minimum:
 - ▶ 2 standard voting booths;
 - ▶ 2 tabletop voting screens.
- ▶ For a general election where votes are cast for president there must be one voting booth or voting screen for every 125 people listed on the checklist (excluding election-day registrants)

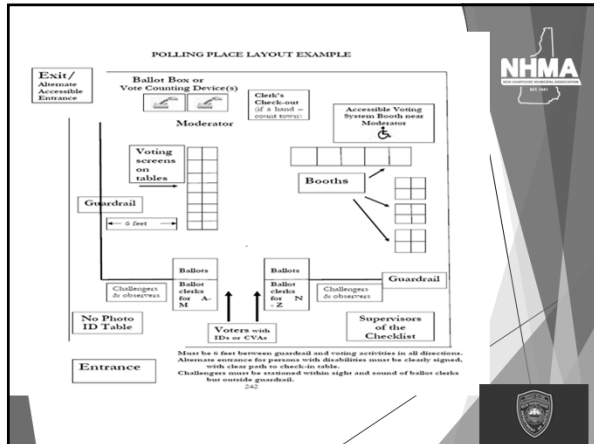


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Polling Place Layout



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Checking-In to Vote

- ▶ Voter does not present valid photo ID?
- ▶ Out-of-State Driver's License?

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Absentee Ballots

- ▶ Moderator must start processing absentee ballots at 1:00PM or prior to 1:00PM provided:
 - ▶ Processing of absentee ballot return envelopes take place no earlier than 2 hours after the opening of the polls; and
 - ▶ The time is posted and announced at least 24 hours in advance.
- ▶ RSA 657:6
- ▶ RSA 657:17

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Ballot Counting Devices



- ▶ Procedure
 - ▶ Election Procedure Manual 2018-2019, Pgs. 229-232.



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Official Ballots



- ▶ Moderator must ensure that no official election day ballot is removed from within the guardrail for any purpose. RSA 659:38.
- ▶ Absentee ballots may be removed outside the guardrail when an unforeseen accessibility event arises, but not to resolve ongoing accessibility problems. RSA 659:20-a.



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Challengers



- ▶ Challengers, who are designated in writing by a party, must be placed in an area where they can see and hear voters check-in with ballot clerks.
- ▶ Challenges are to be made at the voter check-in table.
- ▶ Challenges are prohibited from being made at the voter registration table.
 - ▶ This does not apply to challenges made by election officials. RSA 659:27.



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Registered Voters Making Challenges



- ▶ Challenges may also be made by voters who are registered in the town or ward where the challenge is being made. RSA 659:27, III.
- ▶ All challenges must be made on the "Asserting a Challenge" form.



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Observers



- ▶ Difference between a "challenger" and a "observer."
 - ▶ See Pgs. 58-59 Election Procedure Manual.
- ▶ Right to Observe.
 - ▶ See Pgs. 100-101 Election Procedure Manual.
- ▶ Recording in the polling location.



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Voter Registration


- ▶ The ultimate decision to accept or reject a voter registration application lies with the Supervisors of the Checklist.
 - ▶ RSA 654:12.
- ▶ Proof of Voter Qualifications.
 - ▶ Proof of Identity - Pgs. 119-120, 126-127 of Election Procedure Manual
 - ▶ Proof of Domicile - Pgs. 120-125 of Election Procedure Manual
- ▶ Questions about obtaining a NH driver's license?



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Voter Assistance Oath

- ▶ RSA 659:20.
- ▶ Administered by the Moderator or an election official appointed by the Moderator.
- ▶ Reasonable level of certainty the person requesting assistance and the person providing assistance understand and agree to the oaths.




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Thank You, Nick!

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